DR. STEEVENS' HOSPITAL.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 30 August 1880;—*for*,

COPY "of CORRESPONDENCE between the INSPECTOR GENERAL of CONSTABULARY and the GOVERNORS of DR. STEEVENS' HOSPITAL, relative to the Treatment of CONSTABULARY PATIENTS in the said HOSPITAL, referred to in LETTER of *T. H. Burke*, Esquire, Under Secretary, to the Secretary of the Board of Superintendence of the Dublin Hospital, under date the 24th day of October 1878."

The Inspector General of Constabulary to Mr. *H. B. M'Vittie.*

Constabulary Office, Dublin Castle,
24 September 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to enclose a letter, which I have addressed to the Board of Governors of Steevens' Hospital, and to request that you will lay the letter before the Board for their consideration.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. E. Hillier*,
Inspector General.

H. B. M'Vittie, Esq., &c., &c., &c.,
Steevens' Hospital.

The Inspector General of Constabulary to the Governors of Dr. *Steevens'* Hospital.

Constabulary Office, Dublin Castle,
24 September 1878.

Gentlemen,

I REQUEST your consideration of the following matters elicited by the evidence at the recent coroner's inquest on the late constable John Anderson, and which appear to me materially to affect the treatment of constabulary patients in the hospital.

1. It would appear that under the system at present in force, constabulary patients are able to purchase from an employé of the hospital articles of food, in addition to the dietary ordered by the medical officers. The evidence further leads to the inference that this employé has also been in the habit of selling spirits to the inmates of the hospital. Although it has been denied that this practice extends to the constabulary patients, I would feel obliged by strict inquiry being made into the matter.

I have to observe that, as the constabulary patients pay a daily sum of 1 *s.* 4 *d.* for their maintenance in the hospital, it appears to me that it is most essential that arrangements should at once be made which would not only ensure their being supplied with the precise diet, both in quantity and quality, ordered in each individual case by the medical officer, but that it should be neither necessary or possible for any constabulary patient to obtain any addition to it.

2. It appears also from the evidence that, after the lights are put out in the constabulary ward, the patients are left during the night without any attendance. I hold a very strong opinion that this should not be the case, but that a professional nurse should be in attendance during the whole night.

3. A post-mortem

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3. A post-mortem examination was held on the body of the late constable, and it has been alleged that this was done to enable the hospital authorities to furnish the Inspector General with a report of the true cause of death. I trust I may not be considered (on this, or either of the subjects above adverted to) as unnecessarily or improperly interfering with the hospital authorities, when I offer the opinion that, in any case where the medical authorities consider a post-mortem examination necessary, it should not be undertaken until permission is obtained from the nearest relative, or next of kin of the deceased.

I am, &c.
(signed) *G. E. Hillier*,
Inspector General.

The Board of Governors,
Steevens' Hospital, Dublin.

Mr. *H. B. M'Vittie* to the Inspector General of Constabulary.

Doctor Steevens' Hospital, Dublin,
24 September 1878.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter, with enclosure, for the Board of Governors, of this day's date; the enclosure, as you desire, shall be laid before the next meeting of the Governors, which is to be specially summoned.

I am, &c.
(signed) *H. B. M'Vittie.*

Lieutenant Colonel Hillier,
Inspector General.

Mr. *H. B. M'Vittie* to the Inspector General of Constabulary.

Doctor Steevens' Hospital,
8 October 1878.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor of this hospital to inform you that they have considered the three matters specially referred to in your letter to them of the 24th September last.

As to the first, they find that the ward attendant has been in the habit of selling food to the constabulary patients. They will endeavour to prevent the recurrence of this practice as far as possible.

The committee beg to state that there are nurses who are hired to go through the wards at night, and attend such patients as require their assistance.

They have given directions as to the holding post-mortem examinations, in compliance with the recommendation of your letter.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. B. M'Vittie.*

Lieutenant Colonel Hillier,
Inspector General, Dublin Castle.

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DR. STEEVENS' HOSPITAL.

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(*Mr. Callan.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
4 *February* 1881.

58.

Under 1 *oz.*

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